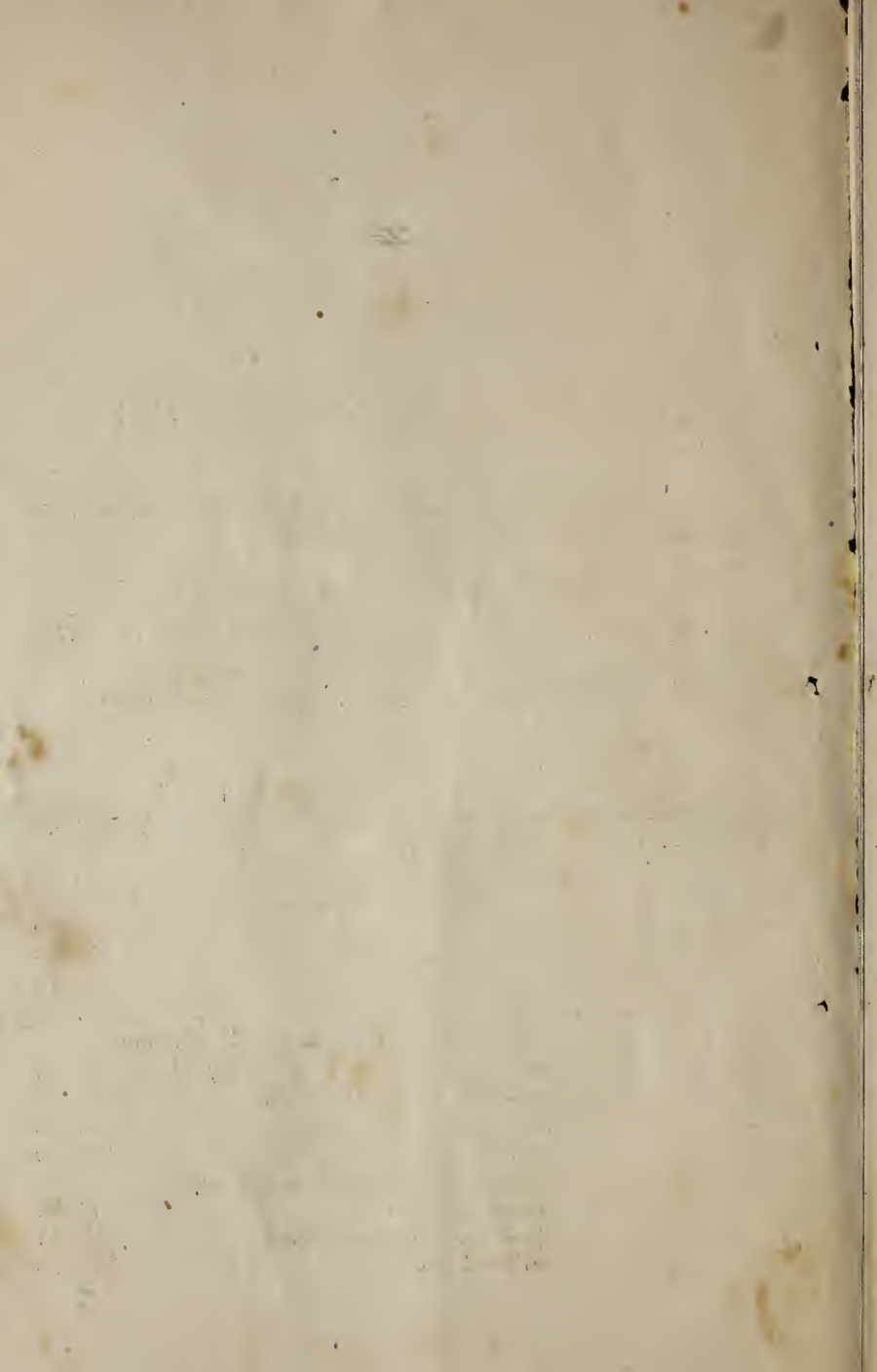




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1875

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SELECTMEN, TREASURER,
AND
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,
OF THE
TOWN OF LONDONDERRY,
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING FEB. 26, 1875.

MANCHESTER, N. H. :
WILLIAM H. FISK, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER, AND BOOK BINDER.
1875.



SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

The financial transactions of the year—the receipts and expenditures are shown by the

TREASURER'S REPORT, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING FEB. 26, 4875.

To balance in treasury March 1. 1874, as follows :

Dr.

Uncollected taxes on L. H. Nes-		
mith's list	\$5,840 16	
Notes in favor of town	82 34	} \$6,470 84
Cash from M. H. Holmes	330 43	
Am't due from M. H. Holmes	217 91	
Principal of surplus revenue fund		1,728 33
Interest on surplus revenue fund		103 69
Principal of literary fund		168 93
Interest " "		8 15
Received for use of town house		10 00
cash refunded by John C. Gibson		
for damage done to sheep by dogs	10 00	
from sale of N. H. bonds	7,400 00	
from prem's on " "	65 00	
accrued int. on " "	392 00	
county of Rockingham for sup-		
port of paupers	57 50	
State savings bank tax	1,640 25	
railroad tax	565 12	

literary fund tax	122 59
U. S. bounty claims	192 00
sale of town bond	100 00
accrued on town bonds	1 50
interest on town note	2 55
sale of William Pridie's effects	8 16
D. G. Annis, collector for 1874	8051 79
D. G. Annis int. on taxes 1874	20 19

\$27,118 59

CR.

By paid selectmen's orders	\$23,168 60
surplus revenue fund on hand	1,728 33
Literary fund on hand	174 67
Due on L. H. Nesmith's list	1,044 16
“ from M. H. Holmes	217 91
Notes in favor of town	71 50
Cash in treasury	713 42

\$27,118 59

DANIEL G. ANNIS, *Treasurer.*

COLLECTOR'S REPORT, FOR THE YEAR END- ING FEBRUARY 26th, 1875.

DR.

To resident, state, county, town, and school tax	\$8,171 84
Non-resident “ “ “	1,242 28
Resident highway tax	1,975 54
Non-resident highway tax	300 13
Dog tax	91 00
Resident school house tax in district No. 9	91 48
Non-resident “ “ “	“ 33 51
Resident “ “ “	6 735 97
Non-resident “ “ “	“ 153 22

\$12,794 97

CR.

BY PAID TO TOWN TREASURER AS FOLLOWS.

Resident, state, county, town and schoool tax	\$6,383 55
Non-resident " " " " "	1,056 16
Resident highway tax in money	66 71
Non resident " " "	213 12
" " " in labor	56 41
Dog tax	59 00
Resident school house tax in dist. No. 6	106 65
Non-resident " " " "	85
Discount on taxes	69 61
Abatement of taxes	39 73
Uncollected taxes including highway, and school house tax in district No. 6	4,743 18

 \$12,794 97
DANIEL G. ANNIS, *Collector.*

 STATE AND COUNTY TAX.

Paid State tax	\$1,704 00
County tax	1,882 22
	<hr/>
	\$3,586 22

 SCHOOLS.

Paid District No. 1	\$253 65
" " 2	252 07
" " 3	122 98
" " 4	184 88
" " 5	174 78
" " 6	182 25
" " 7	225 14
" " 8	241 17
" " 9	126 70
" " 10	39 38

Paid District No. 11,	48 00
	<hr/>
	\$1,851 00

SCHOOL HOUSE TAX.

Paid Wm. H. Orrall, district No. 9	\$80 00
I. L. Fletcher, " "	40 00
L. H. Nesmith, " No 6	100 00
	<hr/>
	\$220 00

GRAVE YARDS.

Paid J. M. Floyd, cutting and clearing bushes from Hill yard,	\$6 00
G. W. Crispeen, clearing bushes from South yard	5 00
Heirs John Shipley, care hearse house	1 25
	<hr/>
	\$12 25

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Paid Augustus Flint, labor	\$1 50
Wm. Mison,	8 75
Benjamin McAllister, labor	5 35
E. P. Ela, labor	1 50
Thomas Bullock, labor	5 25
Isaac Kimball, timber for bridge,	2 50
" labor	7 09
David C. Barker, labor	1 27
Josiah Goodwin, labor	4 50
Charles H. Watts, bridge plank	5 67
James P. Dickey, labor	6 15
Joseph Dickey, land damage	300 00
	<hr/>
	\$349 55

WINTER ROADS.

Paid James F. Barker, breaking roads	1870	\$3 00
William Mison,	" 1862	3 00
Stephen A. Esty,	" "	2 10
Alfred D. Greeley	" 1873	9 45
Ransom Flanders,	" "	5 00
Charles L. Blood,	" "	5 00
M. H. Holmes,	" "	7 20
Augustus Flint,		9 65
E. P. Ela,	" "	75
W. G. Holden,	" "	5 40
Franklin Woodburn,	" "	1 80
D. R. Ball,	" "	2 55
John Avery,	" "	16 80
John E. Woodburn	" "	1 80
J. F. Barker,	" "	6 60
J. P. O'Sullivan,	" "	3 15
J. M. Avery,	" "	18 97
E. B. Randall,	" "	3 43
Robert A. Brown,	" "	2 75
Josiah Goodwin,	" 1874	1 60
		<hr/>
		\$110 00

DAMAGE TO SHEEP BY DOGS.

Paid G. W. Chrispeen, for sheep killed	\$6 00
Cyrus Nesmith, 2 killed, 3 damaged	12 00
Samuel Boyce, 3 killed, 2 damaged	16 00
<hr/>	
\$34 00	

TOWN POOR.

Paid Sarah H. Lawrence, support C. M. Hovey	\$50 00
George N. Goodwin, support of Amos Goodwin	91 00
Z. Whittemore , support Mrs. J. Ripley	50 00
<hr/>	
\$191 00	

TRANSIENT PAUPERS.

Paid H. C. Smith, entertaining transient paupers	\$5	25
A. W. Mack, “ “	5	75
Washington Perkins, “ “	34	75
J. W. Peabody, “ “	2	75
	<hr/>	
	\$48	50

COUNTY POOR.

Paid H. C. Smith wood for J. Vassau	\$5	00
Rockwood Bros., coffin for W. Pridie	10	00
G. W. Boyce supplies for J. Vassau	36	96
O. A. Armstrong expenses burying W. Pridie	6	00
Chas. Adams coffin for Wallace child	7	00
James McKay supplies for Margaret Wallace	2	00
A. P. Hardy & son supplies for Dennis Connor	8	46
	<hr/>	
	\$75	42

DISCOUNT.

Paid D. G. Annis discount on tax list of 1874	\$69	61
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ABATEMENTS.

Paid L. H. Nesmith abatement of taxes	\$167	51
Dan'l G. Annis on list of 1874	39	73
	<hr/>	
	\$207	24

NON-RESIDENT HIGHWAY TAX.

Abated on L. H. Nesmith's list for highway tax		
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paid in labor	\$46 40
Abated on D. G. Annis's, list for tax in labor	56 41
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	\$102 81

RESIDENT HIGHWAY TAX.

Abated on L. H. Nesmith's, list for 1873	
resident highway tax paid in labor	\$474 62

TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid M. H. Holmes, selectman 1873	\$17 00
H. C. Smith, " "	16 50
Calvin Boyd, moderator 1874	6 00
John Dickey, School Committee	45 00
Daniel G. Annis, Town clerk	25 00
" Treasurer	20 00
" Collector	100 00
A. W. Mack, selectman 1874	90 45
" select clerk	10 00
Washington Perkins, selectman 1874	49 00
J. W. Peabody, " "	47 30
Jonathan McAllister, auditor	2 00
C. S. Pillsbury, "	2 00
Josiah Goodwin, "	2 00
	<hr/>
	\$432 25

INTEREST ON NOTES.

Paid Emeline Blood,	\$1 81
Lydia Atwood,	38 25
Jonathan Savory,	60 46
Julia March,	16 17
E. W. Dickey,	54 80

C. S. Pillsbury,	8 50
A. P. Hardy,	22 10
O. A. R. Coburn,	10 57
A. A. Woodbury,	6 65
Lydia Corning,	27 16
Isaac Dow,	9 55
George F. Spinney,	24 08
W. P. Wallace,	14 55
O. A. Peabody,	10 60
Nathan Plummer,	16 17
Roxanna Coburn,	30 00
J. W. Peabody, guardian	49 07
Benjamin McAllister,	27 45
G. H. Hardy,	6 00
C. S. Pillsbury, executor	46 64
Margaret Colby,	7 38

\$487 96

INTEREST ON BONDS.

Paid Jonathan Savory,	\$30 00
James McMurphy,	23 75
Benjamin McAllister,	30 00
A. P. Hardy,	172 50
S. C. Barker,	112 50
H. C. March,	45 00
Susan A. Davis,	60 00
Emeline Blood,	10 00
John L. Blood,	5 00
H. Crowell, parish treasurer	393 00
J. F. Wheeler, treasurer Baptist society	30 00
Emira March,	30 00
B. C. Annis,	25 00
Bethiah Blodget,	9 50
D. W. Barker,	6 00
Zoe A. Flanders,	4 73
Dorcas McQueston,	3 00
Louisa F. Buxton,	90 00
John Dickey,	9 50

Margaret A. Barker,	3 46
C. S. Pillsbury,	2 00
	<hr/>
	\$1,094 94

NOTES AND ENDORSEMENTS PAID.

Paid M. H. Holmes,	\$110 50
Jonathan Savory,	1,100 00
Julia March,	78 41
W. P. Wallace,	152 50
Isaac Dow,	300 00
A. P. Hardy,	600 00
Nathan Plummer,	500 00
O. A. R. Coburn,	450 00
A. A. Woodbury,	50 00
J. W. Peabody, Guardian	1,230 46
C. S. Pillsbury,	100 00
Lydia Corning,	100 00
O. A. Peabody,	200 00
Roxanna Coburn,	600 00
B. McAllister,	563 23
G. H. Hardy,	100 00
Margaret Colby,	71 13
Elisabeth W. Dickey,	800 00
Lydia Atwood,	400 00
Geo. F. Spinney,	450 00
C. S. Pillsbury Executer,	1,060 00
Emeline Blood,	50 00
	<hr/>
	\$9,066 23

BONDS PAID.

Paid A. P. Hardy,	\$1,000 00
S. C. Barker,	500 00
H. C. March,	1,000 00
Margaret A. Barker,	200 00
Zoe A. Flanders,	100 00

John Dickey,	200 00
Bethiah Blodgett,	200 00
James M. Murphy,	500 00
C. S. Pillsbury,	100 00
J. L. Blood,	100 00
Emeline Blood,	200 00
B. C. Annis,	500 00
	<hr/>
	\$4,600 00

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

Paid M. H. Holmes, wood for town house	\$1 40
W. H. Fisk, printing reports, books and stationery	67 20
A. Flint, guide boards	3 75
W. J. Campbell, returning births and deaths	10 25
C. R. Morrison, legal advice	5 00
M. H. Holmes, guide posts and setting	4 50
M. H. Holmes, setting stones in town line	3 00
John Dickey, books for indigent children	2 61
L. A. McGregor, guide post	1 50
M. H. Holmes, error in town account for 1873	52 81
W. Perkins, two guide posts	2 00
Mrs. J. A. Moar, care of townhouse key	1 00
	<hr/>
	\$155 02

RECAPITULATION.

State and county tax	\$3,586 22
Schools	1,851 00
School house tax	220 00
Grave yards	12 25
Roads and bridges	349 55
Winter roads	110 03
Damage to sheep by dogs	34 00
Town poor	191 00

Transient paupers	48 50
County poor	75 42
Discount	69 61
Abatements	207 24
Non-resident highway tax	102 81
Resident highway tax	474 62
Town officers	432 25
Interest on notes	486 15
Interest on bonds	1,094 94
Notes and endorsements	9,066 23
Bonds	4,600 00
Miscellaneous	155 02
	<hr/>
	\$23,168 65

Londonderry, Feb. 26 1875.

This certifies that we have this day audited the Selectmen's accounts, and find the same correctly cast and properly vouched.

JONA. McALLISTER,	} <i>Auditors.</i>
JOSIAH GOODWIN,	
CHAS. S. PILLSBURY.	

BALANCE SHEET.

To bonds payable	\$14,600 00
order outstanding	4 93
school house tax due dist. No. 6	750 00
	<hr/>
	\$15,354 93

CR.

By cash due on L. H. Nesmith's lists	\$1,044 15
“ on D. G. Annis's lists 1874	2,779 35
“ from M. H. Holmes,	217 91
“ on notes for property sold at alms-	
house auction	71 50
By cash in treasury	713 42

surplus revenue	1,728 33
cash due from A. Plumer for fowls belong-	
ing to Pridee	10 00
balance DEBT OF TOWN	8,790 26
	<hr/>
	\$15,354 93

The account above shows the liabilities and resources of the town. The amount reported as due on D. G. Annis's list, is exclusive of that part of the highway tax not paid in cash, and is exclusive, also, of the dog tax. The *apparent* reduction of the debt, during the past year is \$3,916 37, the real reduction is about \$4500, the account being made up differently, and several orders having been omitted in the account of last year.

ANDREW W. MACK,	}	<i>Selectmen of Londonderry.</i>
WASHINGTON PERKINS,		
J. WARREN PEABODY.		

Londonderry, Feb, 26, 1875.

Report of the School Committee.

INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS.

DISTRICT NUMBER ONE.

This school of 28 weeks was divided into three terms, and all under the instruction of Miss Ellie A. Gilcreast. The winter term was the sixth in succession taught by Miss Gilcreast in her own district; a fact indicating that she enjoyed the confidence of her employers to a large extent. Her past experience, here and elsewhere, gave her superior advantages, which she endeavored successfully to use for the benefit of her pupils. It being one of our largest schools, her labors were arduous and exacting. The average attendance was comparatively large in each term. The school, though small, compared with its former size, is made up of good material. At each examination, the classes in arithmetic were remarkably clear and intelligent in their answers, while those in Grammar and the smaller Geography had steadily and surely advanced. Writing had received attention, but only three scholars permitted their books to pass the ordeal of inspection. The three deserve praise, not only for the neat appearance of their books, but for their remarkable courage in presenting them.

Sarah K. Dickey, Frank Hardy, Oscar Benson and Willie D. Young, in all the terms; Hattie Whittemore, Mary Young, Henry Remington, Georgie Hartshorn,

Georgie Benson and Fred. Benson, in two of the terms ; Mary Remington, Ida Manninng, Frank Moore, Rose Pillsbury, Charles Pillsbury, Charles Lawson, Willie Benson, in one term, were perfect in attendance.

DISTRICT NUMBER TWO.

The summer school, taught by Miss M. Lizzie Anderson, was divided in two terms of eight and six weeks respectively. Of the character of the school, with so accomplished a teacher as Miss Anderson and so large a number of intelligent, well bred and dutiful scholars, little need be said. The examination proved to be just such a one as might have been expected in a school composed of so many good elements. If any distinction could be made where all were so deserving, the committee would point to a class of spellers, who had been throughout the term accustomed to write their words, as evincing a knowledge not only of spelling, but of other elementary points rarely met with at the close of any school.

The winter term was taught by Miss E. A. Thomas. Miss Thomas enforced order as one having authority, and although her manner of accomplishing her purpose might have incurred the displeasure of some, yet the character of the examination proved to the committee that her line of instruction was correct and thorough. Several excellent classes in Arithmetic engrossed a large share of the time on that occasion, while the classes in Geography exhibited a knowledge of that branch scarcely equalled by any in town.

Emma D. Boyd, George H. Boyd, Perley S. Robie and Frank E. Robie, in both terms ; Mary E. Anderson, Clara A. Anderson, Emma J. Anderson, Nellie A. Robie, George W. Knight and Martin Anderson, in summer ; and Johnnie G. Thomas in winter, were perfect in attendance.

DISTRICT NUMBER THREE.

The school during both terms was in charge of Miss Pauline O. Scollay. Being a native of the district and

on intimate terms with most of the pupils, it did not prove an easy task to keep her school in quiet subjection, while her scholarship was somewhat taxed in the instruction of those more advanced. Her determination, however, seemed equal to the task. The school at the several visits of the committee appeared in respectable order and evidence that the teacher had made special efforts for the improvement of her school, was gathered from both examinations. The less advanced classes that, in some cases, share but lightly of a teacher's attention, in this instance bore marks of care and pains-taking.

Addie P. Boyd, Ella J. Dooley, Ida A. Dooley and Freddie Herrick, in the summer, and Clara Dooley and Willard R. Boyd, in the winter, are reported as perfect in attendance.

DISTRICT NUMBER FOUR.

The summer term was taught by Miss Luella A. Campbell. The committee was unable to be present at the examination, but from a short visit during the session and various reports from citizens of the district, it is known that Miss Campbell secured the esteem of her pupils to a great extent in her labors for their advancement; and the fact of her engagement to instruct in subsequent terms, is evidence that her services were deemed valuable to those interested. Soon after her commencement of the second term she was called away by sickness at home, and did not resume her labors in the school-room.

The winter term was in charge of Miss Minnie E. Smith. At the first visit of the committee every arrangement seemed to meet the requirements of a well regulated school. There appeared to be no call for suggestions from the committee, except as incitement to study and effort. A judicious classification had been made and an air of good authority, respected and cheerfully obeyed, pervaded the school-room. Excellent methods of conveying instruction were noticed and everything wore a promising look. At the close there were unmistakable indications of improvement. Good classes were heard in nearly every branch, especially in grammar and Colburn's arithmetic; although some of the scholars had failed to

Fred. P. Corning, in the summer, and Mary E. Corning, Delia Watts, Nellie Watts, Willie Watts and Charles Brown, in the winter, were perfect in attendance.

DISTRICT NUMBER SEVEN.

Taught in three terms by Miss Emma Greeley. A feeling of mutual regard appeared to exist at all times in the school-room, indicating a hearty acquiescence in the plans and purposes of the teacher. Good order, intelligent recitations and excellent improvement were the result. A well drilled class in reading in the summer term and classes in geography and arithmetic in the winter had done themselves and their teacher much credit. It might here be observed that Miss Greeley was well fitted in scholarship, temperament and disposition for the position she occupied.

Hattie L. Webster, Willie P. Boyce, Fred. D. McGregor and Arthur E. McKay, were perfect in attendance in winter term.

DISTRICT NUMBER EIGHT.

Miss Abby E. Boyd, teacher. Miss Boyd's ability as a teacher had been tested by repeated and successful experience previous to her engagement here, where she fully sustained her well earned reputation, and gained new laurels in her chosen pursuit. Intelligent and well advanced classes were heard in all the common branches at each examination. The reading of a portion of the first class was almost faultless. Superior classes were exhibited in geography and U. S. History. Those in written arithmetic were enabled to make a good application of theory to practical examples; and the chief exercises of the school-room demonstrated that the efforts of an able and faithful teacher had been exerted in the right direction, while her pupils in return rendered that obedience and respect which is perhaps the greatest source of relief to a burdened teacher.

Emma H. Perkins, Mary A. Noyes, Abbie A. Goodwin, Hattie F. Ladd, Charlie A. Crowell, throughout the

school; Sarah E. Crowell and Julia M. Payne, in two of the terms; and Mary F. Norcross, Lucy H. Noyes, Hattie E. Pressey, Mattie M. Woods, Ira D. Annis, Eddie P. Pressey, Freddie A. Annis, Ira F. Goodwin, Frank E. Chase, George W. Pressey, Wesley W. Payne, Frank E. Norcross, during one term were perfect in attendance.

It is encouraging to notice that but twenty instances of tardiness through the twenty-eight weeks schooling, were recorded on the register.

DISTRICT NUMBER NINE.

Summer term. Miss Rebecca L. George, teacher. Miss George, having taught previously in town, her fitness to instruct and govern was well known to the committee, and it proved in this case to be such that the character of the school was raised to a higher position for the time being than it has often occupied. The recitations at the close were of a high order, and the general management of the school fully met the approbation of the committee.

The winter term was taught by Miss Marietta E. Hatch. Not having the advantage of much experience she of course had something to learn in the art of teaching; but she labored earnestly in her work, improving under some difficulties, and the exercises at the close of the term attested a very fair degree of success. Among other good classes, a small, but advanced class in English grammar had made marked proficiency. A good deal of attention was said to have been given to writing, but a false modesty on the part of some of the scholars, kept several of the books from the eye of the committee. Those that presented their work had no occasion to be ashamed of it.

Those perfect in attendance were, Carrie E. Stevens, Mary Orall, Ida F. Emerson and Clarissa M. Emerson, in summer, and Walter Greeley and Frank Greeley, in winter. The teacher reports that George M. Platts, Mamie E. T. Platts and Eddie C. Tebbetts failed of but one day each, on account of sickness.

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DISTRICT NUMBER TEN.

The school was taught in the aggregate, thirty-one weeks; one term by Miss Fannie Tilton, and the last two terms by Miss Lizzie Montgomery. But three scholars went from Londonderry. Of these, Hannah P. Lincoln, in the summer, and Arthur Parshley in both terms were perfect in attendance.

DISTRICT NUMBER ELEVEN.

A summer term was taught under the instruction of Miss Jennie F. McQuesten. Bringing to her task excellent scholarship and some experience added to her genial manners and good common sense, Miss McQuesten was enabled readily to secure the esteem of her pupils, and apply herself to teaching rather than to punishing. The interest manifested and the results produced, proved her to be a most successful teacher. More attention than is usual was given to reading, and the extra labor bestowed upon that branch was well repaid. Equal attention to pauses, tones, emphasis and inflection, would give us better readers than are generally found.

Delia M. Watts, Nellie M. Watts, Clarabel A. Smith, Sarah F. Wheeler, Evelyn M. Wheeler, Ernest M. Watts, Willie Colby and Charlie Colby, were perfect in attendance, and a list of seven are reported as not having whispered during the term.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Your committee does not propose to present an argument to the citizens of Londonderry with the intent to convince them of the general importance of education in protecting the institutions of the land or the morals and virtues of the people, nor that the cause will fail to move forward and have its due influence on the rising masses without the constraint and unwavering support of effort and means, nor yet that the average boy or girl will come far short of making the best use of opportunities though generously furnished by the public and put within the

reach of all, unless constantly followed by a restraining and encouraging influence exercised by law or precept. These principles are generally settled in the minds of the people.

On these points they need little instruction and less argument. But to act in absolute consistency with acknowledged facts is another thing. It is in giving them their fullest force in a practical application that the public need line upon line and precept upon precept. To this end it is true we do much. We raise money, build school-houses, employ teachers and place them in charge and furnish the necessary appliances for conducting the school. But individual work should not cease where public obligation ends. And here, perhaps, is where the great fault exists, in leaving the machinery to run itself on in trusting it wholly to those employed, whether skillful or otherwise. How many parents are quite ignorant of what branches and how many of them their children are pursuing during the terms of school. How many fail to assert any authority or to exercise a particle of influence in securing their perfect attendance, thus preventing an absence fatal to their own progress and a disturbance of the whole school from entering at late hours? How many are the parents who uphold the teacher in maintaining strict order, to the extent even of correcting their own children? And is it uncommon to be refused a shilling when soliciting for a trifle wherewith to purchase some useful appurtenance for the school room simply from a want of information on the part of those applied to of what is really necessary in its place? While every school has its visitors, more or less, the aggregate is small compared to the number of families composing the community and only a small share of these are parents vitally interested in the welfare of the school. It is not simply to criticise the school or the teacher or the acts of the scholars that parents should be found occasionally within the school room, but their presence at proper times would be a source of encouragement to an appreciating teacher and exert an elevating and restraining influence on the pupils. In how many ways the parent withholds his good influence when he should exert it to the utmost, we will not attempt to say

but leave this stereotyped subject to those who are conscious of their short comings in this line of duty.

Of the conduct of the schools, and the general ability of the teachers employed, little need here be said, as that matter is set forth at some length in that part relating to individual schools. It is a satisfaction however to state that, with possibly one or two exceptions the fifteen teachers of the past year, have been well fitted to do the work submitted to their hands.

And here permit the committee to speak of a certain important requisite.

It is the blindest folly to attempt the management of a school unless one is quite at home in all, and in every part of the branches to be taught. If the teacher is wanting in correct knowledge, errors are allowed to be learned to the pupil's disadvantage and embarrassment in the future. Besides a teacher's hesitation in overcoming difficulties for want of a more thorough acquaintance with the text book is by no means unnoticed by the pupils. The confidence previously imposed in their teacher is in a measure lost, her authority is weakened, and the whole machinery seems to get rapidly out of order. Failures occur from other causes, but it cannot be denied that a complete preparation in this direction might overcome a multitude of minor faults, and, in a majority of cases insure success.

It has been the pleasure of the committee to listen to the reading of compositions, at the close of a small portion of the schools, by those engaged in the study of English grammar, and in some instances where the compositions were not read in the hearing of the committee, it is understood that such an exercise was required. The writing of short, original pieces, subject to the teacher's correction is a most appropriate requirement, and should be encouraged by every one having this class of pupils under tuition. It is only a practical application of what is learned in the book. In fact the acquisition of the art of uniting words and sentences to make good sense in accordance with the laws of the language, is the point to which the whole course of instruction in grammar is intended to lead. Hence to acquire what is generally termed a good knowledge of that branch with no skill

or taste in arranging words, and sentences, but possessing simply the ability to analyze or dissect, and tell the various relations of one to the other, is but obtaining the necessary means to a certain desirable end.

The committee is pleased to state that a decided improvement has been made in many schools, in judiciously dividing the scholars' time in the study of different branches, rather than confining it altogether to one. Thus, in the study of geography were found, it is believed, twenty-five per cent more than last year, and this numerical increase in this branch, in no wise detracting in numbers, interest, or advancement from other studies. Fortunately, the branches allowed to be taught in the common school are not so numerous that the pupil of ordinary intellect cannot, by diligent attention, attain to a respectable position in all; and there is no necessity for sacrificing a complete knowledge of one branch in gaining that of another.

It is the opinion of your committee that *reading* shares less of the attention of teachers, and is perhaps less thoroughly taught, in proportion to its merits, than any other branch; not particularly in pronouncing words, nor in giving pauses their proper length; but more especially in the right application of emphasis, tones and inflections by the more advanced classes. The pupil may be able to read fluently, with correct pronunciations and all due regard to pauses, and yet the exercise be tame and spiritless. To read understandingly, giving the language its fullest force, is the legitimate end of every exercise in this all important branch.

An unabridged dictionary for the teachers desk in district number 8, and a complete set of outline maps in district number 3, have been purchased since the expiration of the last school year. These useful appendages are worthy of a place in every school room in town.

The following list of text books is now authorized: Bible, Hillard's series of Readers, Warren's Geography, Quackenbos's Common School Arithmetic, Colburn's and Emerson's Mental Arithmetics, Worcester's Speller, Potter & Hammond's Series of Writing Books and Campbell's U. S. History.

The foregoing remarks, with the statistical table appended, are respectfully submitted.

JOHN DICKEY,

S. S. Committee.

Londonderry, March 1, 1875.